

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE CONNECTICUT RIVER ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY VISION

Our vision for the Connecticut River's future is for a river with:

clear running water; migrating salmon and shad; recreational users of all types enjoying the River's beauty; a riverfront of protected open lands, wildlife areas, paths and river access facilities; and appropriate riverfront development in downtown areas.

Key elements of this vision include;

- Ensuring fishable/swimmable water quality by cleaning up pollution from combined sewer overflows and nonpoint sources;
- Restoring fish and wildlife and protecting environmentally sensitive areas;
- Bringing people back to the river by providing improved riverfront access and attractions;
- Promoting economic and industrial development in appropriate urbanized areas;
- Educating people about their River's natural and cultural history.

There are seven underlying objectives to the plan:

1. Revitalize our urban centers and rural towns and villages;
2. Conserve working lands and rural open spaces;
3. Preserve recreational, cultural and historic resources;
4. Improve water quality;
5. Restore and maintain wildlife and fisheries habitat;
6. Sustain riverbanks and safeguard floodplains;
7. Build a federal/state support system for the communities and people in the Connecticut River Valley.

CONNECTICUT RIVER ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

A. Urban Riverfront Revitalization Plans

1. REGIONAL REVITALIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR GREATER HARTFORD (CT)
Local Coordinators: Riverfront Recapture, Science Center of Connecticut, MetroHartford Millennium Project
2. SPRINGFIELD RIVERFRONT REVITALIZATION AND PIONEER VALLEY PLAN FOR PROGRESS (MA)
Local Coordinators: Plan for Progress Trustees, City of Springfield, and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
3. BRATTLEBORO AND BELLOWS FALLS RIVERFRONT REVITALIZATION (VT)
Local Coordinators: Municipalities and Windham Regional Commission
4. WATERFRONT AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FOR MIDDLETOWN, PORTLAND & CROMWELL (CT)
Local Coordinators: Mid-State Regional Planning Agency, Middletown Harbor Improvement Authority

B. Connecticut River Tourism, Recreation and Access Programs

5. TRI-STATE CONNECTICUT RIVER SCENIC FARM BYWAY (MA, NH, VT)
Local Coordinators: Tri-State Scenic Byway Steering Committee
6. CONNECTICUT RIVER HERITAGE STUDY (CT, MA, NH, VT)
Local Coordinators: Connecticut River Watershed Council, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and Connecticut River Joint Commissions
7. CONNECTICUT RIVER 2020 STRATEGY AND RIVERWALK PROJECT (MA)
Local Coordinators: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, seven municipalities
8. CONNECTICUT RIVER WATER TRAIL (VT AND NH)
Lead Coordinators: Upper Valley Land Trust & Partners
9. CONNECTICUT RIVER TRAVEL INFORMATION PROGRAM (Watershed)
Local Coordinator: Connecticut River Watershed Council, Great Falls Discovery Center

C. Agricultural Preservation and Natural Resource Protection Plans

10. CONNECTICUT RIVER RURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION FOCUS AREA (CT)
Local Coordinators: Connecticut River Watershed Council, Hartford County Soil & Water Conservation District
11. MARKETING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM SMALL FARMS (NH AND VT)
Local Coordinator: Connecticut River Joint Commissions
12. CONNECTICUT RIVER AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION PLAN (Watershed)
Local Coordinator: Connecticut River Conservation Districts Coalition (All 19 Conservation Districts)

D. Connecticut River Education

13. GREAT FALLS DISCOVERY CENTER PARTNERSHIP (Watershed)
Local Coordinators: Montague Economic Development & Industry Council and GFDC Partners -- US Fish and Wildlife Service Conte Refuge, MA Departments of Environmental Management and Fisheries and Wildlife, Northeast Utilities, Connecticut River Watershed Council and MA Audubon Society
14. CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED WEBSITE (Watershed)
Local Coordinator: Connecticut River Watershed Council
15. CONNECTICUT RIVER HERITAGE NETWORK (Watershed)
Local Coordinators: Connecticut River Museum, Great Falls Discovery Center, and other educational and cultural organizations
16. CONNECTICUT RIVER EDUCATION INITIATIVE (Watershed)
Local Coordinator: MA, NH, VT, & CT Public Television & Northfield Mount Hermon School, Valley Science Centers, Connecticut River Watershed Council and the Connecticut River School
17. WATERSHED PROTECTION TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION (MA)
Local Coordinators: Franklin Regional Council of Governments

E. Habitat Restoration, Riverbank Stabilization, and Water Quality Protection

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18. ANADROMOUS FISHERIES RESTORATION PROJECT (CT, MA, NH, VT)

Local Coordinator: Connecticut River Watershed Council, CT Department of Environmental Protection

19. INTERSTATE CONNECTICUT RIVER CSO COALITION (CT AND MA)

Local Coordinators: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, City Officials & Hartford, CT Metropolitan District Commission

20. CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED STRATEGIC PLAN (MA)

Local Coordinators: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Franklin Regional Council of Governments

21. SEVERE RIVERBANK EROSION (MA)

Local Coordinators: Franklin Regional Council of Governments, CT River Streambank Erosion Committee, Northeast Utilities

22. SUSTAINABLE RIVERBANKS (CT, MA, NH, VT)

Local Coordinators: Connecticut River Conservation Districts Coalition (19 Districts), Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Regional Planning Commissions

23. COOPERATIVE RELICENSING OF HYDROELECTRIC DAMS (NH AND VT)

Local Coordinators: New England Power Co./U.S. Generating, stakeholders group representing state and federal resource agencies, Regional Planning Agencies, local government, and environmental groups

24. NONPOINT POLLUTION PREVENTION (CT, MA, NH, VT)

Local Coordinators: Connecticut River Joint Commissions, Connecticut River Conservation District Coalition, Connecticut River Watershed Council

25. HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION (MA)

Local Coordinators: Franklin Regional Council of Governments

F. Reinventing Government

26. COMMUNITY WATERSHED INITIATIVE (CT AND MA)

Local Coordinators: Connecticut River Watershed Council & Housatonic Valley Association

27. CONNECTICUT RIVER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN (NH AND VT)

Local Coordinator: Connecticut River Joint Commissions

28. CONNECTICUT RIVER PARTNERSHIP (NH AND VT; maybe CT AND MA)

Local Coordinators: Connecticut River Joint Commissions and Connecticut River Watershed Council

29. CONNECTICUT RIVER INDEX BASELINES AND BENCHMARKS (Watershed)

Local Coordinator: Connecticut River Watershed Council